

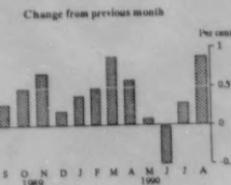
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 1 November 1990

The week in statistics ...

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Petroleum prices boost manufactures index



Prices of manufactured goods rose by 0.9 per cent in August 1990. The main contributor to the rise was refined petroleum products, reflecting large increases in world oil prices. These increases were partly offset by price decreases for about 20 per cent of the items in the index.

The increase in August resulted in the annual rate of increase rising to 5.0 per cent. As the table below shows, price rises in all sectors other than petroleum products were quite low in August.

Manufacturing sector	PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS AUGUST 1990	
	Percentage change	From previous month
Food and beverages	0.2	4.4
Clothing and footwear	0.4	5.3
Chemical products	0.0	3.9
Petroleum products	16.0	21.4
Basic metal products	0.5	3.2
Fabricated metal products	0.1	7.7
Transport equipment	0.1	3.9
Other industrial machinery	-0.1	2.5
Total manufacturing	0.9	5.0

For further information, order the publication Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0), or contact Peter Carty on (06) 252 5541.

Trend for motor vehicle registrations continues to fall

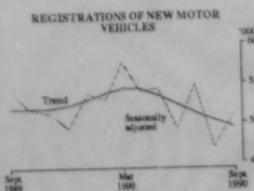
Total motor vehicle registrations increased by 8.6 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms in September 1990. The increase followed a decline of 14.6 per cent in August. However, the September trend estimate continued the decline shown over the previous five months.

Total vehicle registrations in September were 50,872 (seasonally adjusted) compared with 46,830 in August and 54,290 in September 1989.

In seasonally adjusted terms, cars and station wagons rose by 7.5 per cent to 40,390 with all other vehicles rising by 13.2 per cent to 10,482.

The trend estimate of registrations has now been in decline for six months, after an almost uninterrupted rise from the middle of 1987.

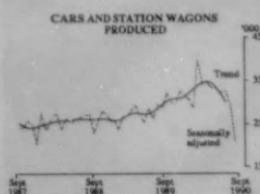
For further information, order the publication Registration of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Preliminary (9301.0), or contact Kevin Yeardon on (06) 252 6255.



Manufacturing: output down but trends still mixed

Nineteen of the twenty-five seasonally adjusted series from the monthly survey of manufacturing production decreased between August and September 1990.

Despite these widespread falls in production between August and September, further data over the next couple of months will be required before the broad picture of production trends can be clarified. In September, nine of the series had downward production trends, eight had increasing trends while production trends for the remaining eight commodities were flat.



The major falls in seasonally adjusted terms for September occurred in the production of cars and station wagons (down 29.8%, adding to a 9.5% fall the previous month), vehicles for goods and materials (down 27.3% on top of an 18.2% fall the previous month), and petrol rotary type lawn mowers (down 27.0%, off-setting a 14.2% increase between July and August 1990).

The largest percentage increases in manufacturing output in seasonally adjusted terms came in chocolate based confectionery (up 24.1% following an 11.3% increase the previous month), man-made fibre fabric (up 15.0%, off-setting a 9.3% fall the previous month) and cotton yarn (up 6.1% following an 18.6% increase).

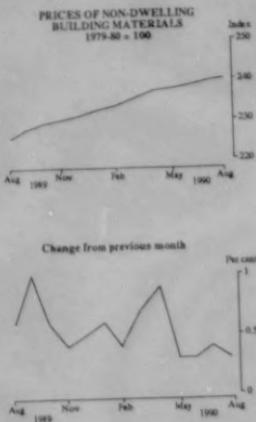
PRODUCTION OF COMMODITIES RECORDING SIGNIFICANT MONTHLY CHANGE Seasonally adjusted

Commodity	Unit	Production in September 1990	Percentage change from previous month
<i>Decrease —</i>			
Cars and station wagons	number	20,700	-29.8
Goods vehicles	number	1,080	-27.3
Lawn mowers	number	13,500	-27.0
Sulphuric acid	tonnes	84,000	-26.6
Domestic clothes washing machines	number	26,600	-24.4
<i>Increase —</i>			
Confectionery, chocolate based	tonnes	9,528	24.1
Man-made fibre fabric	'000 sq m	15,410	15.0
Cotton yarn	tonnes	2,139	6.1

Twenty of the twenty-five series have lower production in September 1990 compared with September 1989. The only series with higher production are; chocolate based confectionery (up 27.5% on September 1989), cotton yarn (up 21.0%), man-made fibre fabric (up 5.2%), electricity (up 4.6%) and iron and steel in ingots and other primary forms (up 3.3%).

For further information, order the publication *Production Statistics, Australia, Preliminary (8301.0)*, or contact Kevin Squair on (06) 252 5558.

Prices of builders' supplies still restrained



Prices for materials used in non-dwelling construction increased by a modest 0.3 per cent in August 1990.

There were small increases in a wide range of materials, the most significant being for ready mixed concrete, structural steel and copper pipes.

The annual rate of increase of 6.5 per cent maintains the relatively low increases of recent months. However Brisbane and Perth continue to record annual rates of increase well above the national average (see table).

PRICES OF NON-DWELLING BUILDING MATERIALS

AUGUST 1990

Percentage change

City	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	0.3	6.8
Melbourne	0.2	5.1
Brisbane	0.1	8.0
Adelaide	0.1	6.9
Perth	0.3	7.6
Hobart	0.3	4.7
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.3	6.5
Darwin	0.5	5.0
Canberra	0.1	6.1

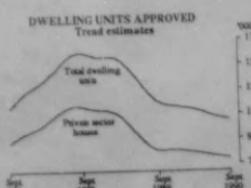
For further information, order the publication Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities (6407.0), or contact Peter Sturgeon on (06) 252 6198.

Dwelling approvals still falling

Trends in private houses and total dwelling unit approvals are declining but at a slower rate than the severe falls recorded between March and September 1989.

Private house approvals in September 1990 have returned to their lowest level for more than three years, seasonally adjusted, despite the slight improvement in August.

September approvals of private houses (7,397) decreased by 2.3 per cent compared with August 1990, while total dwelling unit approvals (10,527) decreased by 3.7 per cent, seasonally adjusted.



The value of total building approvals (residential and non-residential) increased by 6.0 per cent, seasonally adjusted, from \$1,839.9 million in August 1990 to \$1,950.9 million in September.

**DWELLING UNITS APPROVED
SEPTEMBER 1990**

	Private sector houses		Total dwelling units	
	No.	Percentage change on previous month	No.	Percentage change on previous month
		No.		Percentage change on previous month
Original	7,265	-8.9	10,354	-9.3
Seasonally adjusted	7,397	-2.3	10,527	-3.7
Trend estimate	7,452	-0.9	10,578	-0.8

For further information, order the publication *Building Approvals, Australia (8731.0)*, or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.

Farm commodities lead export prices down again

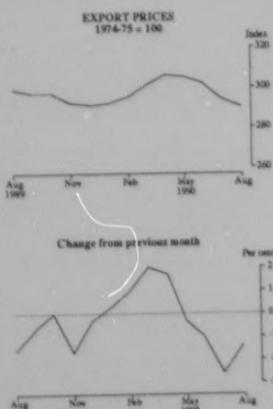
Export prices fell by 1.4 per cent in August 1990, the fourth successive monthly fall in the Australian Bureau of Statistics export price index.

The major factors behind the fall in August were the significantly lower prices for wool following the reduction in the floor price, combined with a further decrease in wheat prices, reflecting lower world prices.

About 30 per cent of the commodities included in the index recorded price increases with the main increase being for petroleum products resulting from large increases in world oil prices.

Over the year to August 1990 export prices decreased by 3.0 per cent.

The table below shows the wide divergence in the price changes for the different broad groupings of commodities.

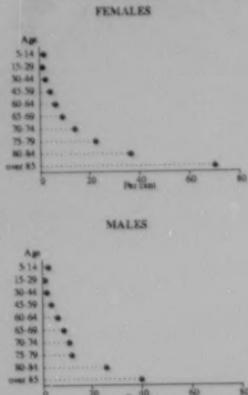


Commodity	From previous month	EXPORT PRICES AUGUST 1990	
		Percentage change	From corresponding month of previous year
Food and live animals	-2.2	-6.0	-
Crude materials	-2.9	-3.1	-
Mineral fuels	4.8	8.0	-
Animal and vegetable oils	-4.7	0.7	-
Chemicals and other manufactures	-0.7	-4.8	-
All exports	-1.4	-3.0	-

For further information, order the publication *Export Price Index, Australia (6405.0)*, or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

Disabilities affect 16 per cent of the population

SEVERELY HANDICAPPED PERSONS
Percentage of total population in each age group



The final results of the 1988 Survey of Disabled and Aged Persons show that 2,543,100 Australians were found to be disabled, with 2,120,000 of these found to be also handicapped.

Disabled people had at least one impairment or disability which lasted, or was expected to last, six months or more. A handicapped person was a disabled person over four years old who was also limited in performing self care, mobility, verbal communication, school or employment tasks.

Disability and handicap generally increases with age. Three per cent of children aged 0 to 4 years were disabled, while 64 per cent of people aged 75 years and over were disabled.

The majority of handicapped people suffered from a mobility handicap. Other frequently reported areas of handicap were employment limitation and self care.

Four out of ten of all handicapped people used at least one aid because of their disability; of these, 55 per cent used an aid for mobility (e.g. walking sticks).

The majority of handicapped 15 to 64 year olds had an employment limitation. Of these, half were restricted in the type of job they could do and over one third were permanently unable to work because of their condition. Fewer than half of the handicapped people aged 15 to 64 were in the labour force (see table below). Furthermore, of those handicapped 12 per cent were unemployed, compared with 8 per cent for all persons in that age group.

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, 1988
Per cent

	Males	Females	Persons
All disabled persons	61	40	52
Disabled but not handicapped	87	55	74
Handicapped —			
Severe	37	31	34
Moderate	49	33	42
Mild	61	41	52
Not determined	67	45	59
Total handicapped	55	37	46
Not disabled	89	62	75
All persons	85	59	72

Disabled people living in households were asked if they needed assistance to perform certain tasks. Sixty one per cent reported needing help with at least one activity, with a spouse or partner living in the same household being the most common providers of help over a wide range of activities.

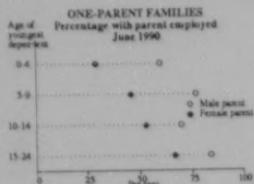
For further information, order the publication Disability and Handicap, Australia (4120.0), or contact Liz Swan on (06) 252 6390.

Families and the labour force

Of the estimated 12.4 million people aged 15 years and over living in private dwellings in June 1990, 10.6 million (85%) were members of a family. Of the remaining 1.8 million people who were not members of a family, 1.1 million (59%) lived alone.

New results from the June 1990 Labour Force Survey also show that an estimated 8 per cent of the 4.5 million families were one-parent families. The proportion of one-parent families where the parent was male rose from 11 per cent in June 1989 to 13 per cent in June 1990.

Some 75 per cent of men who were sole parents were employed — of these, 93 per cent were employed full time. In comparison, female sole parents were generally either employed (45%) or not in the labour force (48%), leaving 7 per cent unemployed.



ONE-PARENT FAMILIES
JUNE 1990
'000 families

	Parent employed	Parent unemployed	Parent not in the labour force	Total
Male parent	34.6	1.6	10.2	46.4
Female parent	142.3	22.2	150.2	314.7
<i>Total</i>	176.9	23.8	160.4	361.1

The results also show:

- The average duration of unemployment for parents in one-parent families was 30 weeks, with 19 per cent (about 4,500) of unemployed parents being unemployed for one year or longer.
- Some 52 per cent of married-couple families had both partners in the labour force, 29 per cent had only one partner in the labour force and for the remaining 19 per cent, neither partner was in the labour force.
- Just over 70 per cent of women living alone were aged 55 years and over; of men living alone less than half were in this category.

For further information, order the publication Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia (6224.0), or contact Ian Clout on (06) 252 6018.

New socio-economic indexes for areas

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has developed five socio-economic indexes measuring Australian social and economic conditions by geographic area, by analysing a variety of underlying variables from the 1986 Population Census. The indexes are:

- Urban Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage
- Rural Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage
- Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage
- Index of Economic Resources
- Index of Education and Occupation.

Each index has been constructed so that relatively advantaged areas, for example, areas with many high income earners, have high index values.

The Indexes of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage are general socio-economic indexes, while the Indexes of Economic Resources and of Education and Occupation are more specific.

The five indexes are available for census collection districts, legal local government areas (LGAs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and postcodes. Index values for regions other than postcode, LGA or SLA may also be calculated easily.

The indexes are available in a product known as SEIFA — Socio-Economic Indexes For Areas. The SEIFA product comprises:

- an information paper (15 pages) designed for people wanting a comprehensive understanding of the development of the product;
- a floppy disk set available in either 3½" or 5¼" disks for Australia and for each State. The disks include software designed to enable clients to calculate index values and produce reports on them, for areas that they define themselves. Files can also be produced for importing into wordprocessing or spreadsheet packages. CData86 users are able to use it to map the indexes. A *User Manual* (98 pages) is included which explains in detail the functionality of the software.

The product will also be available via the ABS consultancy service, for those clients whose interest is in small, specific areas or in further analysis or report writing.

For further information, order the publication Information Paper: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (1356.0), or contact Edward Szoldra on (06) 252 7325.

This week in brief ...

Extracts from this week's releases.

Industrial disputes

In July 1990, 102 industrial disputes were in progress, involving 35,900 employees and the loss of 37,500 working days. Of the States, New South Wales had the highest level of working days lost (19,400) accounting for 51.7 per cent of all lost time.

In the twelve months ended July 1990, a total of 910,000 working days were lost. This is the lowest twelve month figure since this measure was first published on a regular monthly basis in December 1981.

Source: Industrial Disputes, Australia, July 1990 (6321.0).

Construction industry

Construction industry establishments are estimated to have had employment of 367,257 at 30 June 1989, a total turnover of \$42,097 million for the year 1988-89 and value added of \$14,112 million.

Source: Construction Industry, Australia, 1988-89, Preliminary (8770.0).

Mining

The mining sector contributed \$13,947 million or 4.1 per cent of the total Gross Domestic Product in 1988-89 (\$14,506 million or 4.9 per cent in 1987-88).

Persons employed per establishment increased from 158 in 1987-88 to 174 in 1988-89 (up 10.1%). Value added per person employed increased from \$189,600 in 1987-88 to \$191,900 in 1988-89 (up 1.2%).

Source: Census of Mining Establishments: Details of Operations by Industry Class, Australia, 1988-89 (8402.0).

Research and experimental development (R&D)

General government expenditure of R&D carried out in Australia in 1988-89 is estimated to be \$1,315 million at current prices. For private non-profit organisations the estimate is \$57 million at current prices. These represent increases of 10 per cent and 5 per cent respectively over 1987-88. Since 1984-85 general government R&D expenditure at average 1984-85 prices is estimated to have increased 8 per cent, while private non-profit R&D expenditure is estimated to have increased 9 per cent.

While most general government R&D expenditure is still directed towards applied research (\$720 million or 55%), general government organisations are directing relatively less of their research expenditure towards pure basic research, down from 6 per cent in 1986-87 to 5 per cent in 1988-89.

Higher education expenditure on R&D carried out in Australia in 1988 is estimated to be \$1,077 million at current prices. This represents an increase of 9 per cent over 1987. At average 1984-85 prices higher education R&D expenditure is estimated to have increased 22 per cent over the four year period from 1984-85.

Source: Research and Experimental Development: General Government and Private Non-Profit Organisations, Australia, 1988-89 (8109.0) and Research and Experimental Development: Higher Education Organisations, Australia, 1988 (8111.0).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Peter Damcevski
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6101

All the week's releases: 24 to 30 October

General

Statistics Weekly, 25 October 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
Local Government Areas Statistical Summary, Qld, 1990 (1306.3; \$16.50)

Demography

Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, Vic, 1989 (3207.2; \$12.50)
Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, SA, June 1989 (3204.4; \$10.00)

Social statistics

Disability and Handicap, Aust., 1988 (4120.0; \$12.50) — new issue

Labour statistics and prices

Industrial Disputes, Aust., July 1990 (6321.0; \$5.50)
Export Price Index, Aust., August 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, August 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Aust., August 1990 (6412.0; \$6.00)

Agriculture

Information Paper: AGSTATS, Aust., 1988-89 (Revised Edition)
 (7107.0; free) (Previously: *Information Paper: AG-STATS on Magnetic Tape, Microfiche, Floppy Disk and CD-ROM, Aust.*)

Secondary industry and distribution

Research and Experimental Development: General Government and Private Non-Profit Organisations, Aust., 1988-89 (8109.0; \$11.00)
Research and Experimental Development: Higher Education Organisations, Aust., 1988 (8111.0; \$8.00)
Production Statistics, Aust., September 1990, Preliminary (8301.0; \$5.00)
Census of Mining Establishments: Details of Operations by Industry Class, Aust., 1988-89 (8402.0; \$8.00)
Building Approvals, Aust., September 1990 (8731.0; \$8.50)
Construction Industry, Aust., 1988-89, Preliminary (8770.0; \$10.00)
 (Previously: *Construction Industry Survey: Private Sector Construction Establishments, Aust., Preliminary*)
Building Approvals, Vic., September 1990 (8731.2; \$8.50)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Vic., August 1990 (8741.2; \$8.00)
Sand, Gravel and Quarry Production, Qld, June 1990 (8403.3; \$3.00)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, WA, August 1990 (8741.5; \$8.00)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, June Qtr 1990 (8741.4; \$8.00)
Mining, Tas., 1988-89 (8401.6; \$8.00)
Tourist Accommodation, NT, June Qtr 1990 (8635.7; \$8.00)
Building Approvals, NT, September 1990 (8731.7; \$5.50)

Transport

Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., September 1990, Preliminary (9301.0; \$4.00)

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., July 1990 (9303.0; \$9.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 13 November 1990

November

- [1]** Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, August 1990 (6408.0; \$3.75)
- Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, August 1990 (6411.0; \$8.50)
- [2]** Balance of Payments, Australia, September 1990 (5301.0; \$12.00)
- [6]** Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1991, June Quarter 1990 Survey (5626.0; \$8.50)
- [7]** Consumer Price Index, September Quarter 1990 (6401.0; \$10.00)
- [8]** The Labour Force, Australia, October 1990, Preliminary (6202.0; \$8.50)
The Labour Force, Australia — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, October 1990 (6271.0; \$60.00)
- [12]** Retail Trade, Australia, September 1990 (8501.0; \$8.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 30 October 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE Seasonally adjusted September 1990	10.1	13.5	5.6	17.7	-5.3	-35.2	n.a.	n.a.	-2.4
New South Wales	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Victoria	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Queensland	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
South Australia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Western Australia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tasmania	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
0 2 4 6 8 10	Per cent								
Statistics Weekly 1 November 1990	3.7	1.1	3.8	6.9	-13	2.3	-1.2	-7.0	2.6

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

The latest ...

12

Key national indicators - consolidated to 30 October 1990

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production						
Gross domestic product	— current prices — 1984-85 prices	\$m	June qtr 90 62,511	91,183 64,562	0.4 -0.9	5.6 1.0
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure	— current prices — 1984-85 prices	\$m	June qtr 90 3,288	6,990 5,030	-5.3 -4.6	-9.3 -12.7
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Six months to Dec. 90	14,807	n.a.	n.a.	-1.6
Retail turnover	— current prices — 1984-85 prices	"	August 90 June qtr 90	6,986 14,200	2.5 -0.3	6.0 1.4
New motor vehicle registrations	"	September 90	50,018	50,872	8.6	-6.3
Dwelling unit approvals	"	September 90	10,554	10,527	-3.7	-15.6
Value of all building approvals	"	"	1,822	1,951	6.0	-18.4
Value of total building work done	— current prices 1984-85 prices	"	June qtr 90 "	7,064 4,484	-6.9 -7.6	-7.5 -12.8
Manufacturers' sales	"	June qtr 90	35,529	35,201	-3.0	2.3
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to Dec. 90	75,399	n.a.	n.a.	4.6
Labour						
Employed persons (e)	'000	September 90	7,925.5	7,878.9	-0.2	0.9
Unemployment rate † (e)	%	"	7.3	7.4	0.1	1.3
Participation rate † (e)	"	"	64.2	63.9	-0.1	0.4
Job vacancies	'000	August 90	48.1	49.6	-1.3	-25.3
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.2	1.3	-6.5	-17.6
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	June qtr 90	207.4	n.a.	1.6	7.7
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries (f)	1984-85 = 100.0	July 90	116.4	n.a.	-0.2	-3.1
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	August 90	109.6	n.a.	0.9	5.0
Company profits before income tax	\$m	June qtr 90	3,356	3,634	-10.9	-25.3
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	May 90	534.10	n.a.	1.8	6.6
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
10-day bank bills ‡	% per annum	September 90	13.55	n.a.	-0.20	-4.8
10-year Treasury bonds ‡	"	"	13.65	n.a.	0.15	0.0
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	August 90	4,206	4,130	-3.1	4.6
Imports of merchandise	"	"	4,565	4,175	0.0	11.4
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-359	-45	n.a.	94.1
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-781	-412	-62.2	62.6
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,811	-1,497	-17.4	28.4
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	June qtr 90	n.a.	104.9	1.7	-4.3
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	30 June 90	124,528	n.a.	-0.3	13.3
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	161,820	n.a.	0.2	11.4
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
SUS per SA	May 1970 = 100.0	August 90	0.8088	n.a.	2.0	6.1
Trade weighted index	"	"	61.4	n.a.	0.5	3.7
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Mar. 90	17.0	n.a.	0.4	1.5
Overseas visitors	'000	June 90	157	201	5.6	11.0

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Wednesday, 31 October 1990. (f) Later figures released Thursday, 1 November 1990.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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